

a thickened mold hoop emerging from a radially inner portion of the indentation and extending in a radially outward direction;

wherein the convex side surfaces and the rounded corners impart an approximately square-shaped cross-section to the barrel body.

Please add the following new claims:

37. (New) A plastic barrel comprising:

a barrel body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and four substantially identically shaped side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at corners;

an indentation located between said top surface and bottom surface, and running along a circumference of the barrel body, and

a mold hoop emerging from a radially inner portion of the indentation and extending in a radially outward direction.

38. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein the top surface, bottom surface, and four side surfaces have a unitary construction.

39. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein the indentation is formed as one of a V-shape and a U-shape.

40. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein a radially outermost portion of the mold hoop extends to an outer circumference of the barrel body.

41. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein a radially outermost portion of the mold hoop extends beyond an outer circumference of the barrel body so that the mold hoop sticks out from the barrel body.

42. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein the mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.

43. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, further comprising first and second side bungs, each side bung formed on the top surface adjacent to oppositely facing first and second of said four side surfaces.

44. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, further comprising a foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel body, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor.

45. (New) The plastic barrel according to claim 37, wherein the side surfaces are convex.